

Dear Core Group,

Last night, after an excellent supper with F [REDACTED], I went over to teach the Dutch College lecturers: 1 woman and 12 men. All the men looked down on me from a great height. Why are the Dutch so huge, especially from Friesland?

First job was to get rapport. I did this by telling a series of jokes and getting some back from them. We laughed heartily together and I felt I had been let in. As you realise, there are umpteen ways of getting rapport, and humour is one that is very effective among males. (the theme of the workshop was transferring story-telling skills to lecturing) I do not think I would have got rapport by using the exercises Arseen and Marisa used in the TTT group yesterday. (Ask them what these were.)

One of the joys of working at Pilgrims is the chance to work in a variety of different groups each of which has its own taste and texture. I also like changing role from leader to full participant. That is real fun, and can serve useful purposes for others as well as for me.

Today the coaches are going to be taking us into the world of Walt Disney and getting us become aware of ourselves as **critics**, as **dreamers** and as **realists**.

When I wrote my first EFL books with my ex-boss, James Dixey, I could happily swan around as the dreamer, coming up with a stream of ideas, however way-out. For him the realist role was natural and he did it extremely skilfully.

But I am currently starting a book collaboration with Penelope... she has a superb dreamer side but I HAVE TO provide the realist element, and her critic is so negative and out of proportion that we have keep it completely quiet and away from the collaboration. Her critic is ^Atowering monstrous devil, the way I see it, at least.

A corrosive critic is very dangerous...it can often be an introjected parental voice.

This may sound and feel and look obscure as you read it now, but by lunchtime it could well make better sense. I guess I am talking to you in the future from my writing time point, but also from your reading time point.

Mario

